

# ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention features methods of reducing the level of a  $\beta$ -amyloid (A $\beta$ ) polypeptide using an *Cimicifuga* extract. The invention also features methods of producing an active fraction from an extract of *Cimicifuga*. The invention further features a composition containing an active fraction of a *Cimicifuga* extract and an article of manufacture containing such a composition.

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